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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

25X1

COUNTRY

East Germany

COUNTRY

SUBJECT

Situation in the Eastern CDU

CDU

DATE DISTR. 20 January 1954

NOTES

NO. OF ENCLS.

(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE OF INFO.

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1. There are indications that many members of the CDU do not agree with the course steered by the executive board of the party. Party rallies are usually attended by not more than 15 percent of the membership. The party leadership is reproached with being too subservient to the SED line in violation of the principles professed by the party. Demands for the election of a non-Communist executive board are voiced more and more frequently. The party leadership, which is fully aware of these tendencies, therefore has ordered that no references be attended by party functionaries be held in all Kreis. Another is that the fight against all opponents of the party line be organized more effectively. Gerald Goetting, secretary general of the East German CDU, and Heinrich Toeplitz, State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice and member of the national executive board of the party, were particularly radical in this respect.
2. Recent happenings in the CDU show that Goetting, Toeplitz, and Max Semenov, the latter also a member of the CIU national executive board, stick to the new line, while Otto Nuschke and other senior members of the party leadership take a different view. However, Nuschke has lost much of his influence over younger functionaries.
3. On 22 October, [REDACTED] the CDU headquarters that Semenov advised Gerald Goetting in a personal interview given between 12 and 17 October to moderate his radical course, because otherwise the CDU would decline in the membership, which was contrary to Semenov's wishes.

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[REDACTED] Comment. A growing opposition against the official SED course has been noticed within the East German CDU since May and June 1953. This opposition is connected with the general malaise which found its expression in the disturbances on and after 17 June. The circles in opposition to Ulbricht believe that they have some support in Semenov who is said to steer a more liberal course. On the side of the SED leadership, efforts are being made to strengthen the situation under-control by strengthening the influence of plain and unobtrusive party functionaries such as Gerald Goetting.

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